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great moral dangers, which were, to some extent, to be avoided under the older boarding house system, with a common parlor and some semblance of a home life. The result of the city's attitude toward houses of prostitution has been to scatter immoral people throughout the lodging house district, and it is therefore extremely difficult for a decent person to be sure of the character of his own residence.

The author has made an important contribution to our knowledge of home (?) life of the great class in our communities, and his volume, and its suggestions, should be carefully studied.

Wood, Wm. *The Fight for Canada.* Pp. xx, 370. Price, \$2.50. Boston: Little Brown & Co., 1906.

Reserved for later notice.

Wright, C. D. *The Battles of Labor.* Pp. 220. Price, \$1. Philadelphia: G. W. Jacobs & Co., 1906.

"Wright's Battles of Labor" is a summary of the lectures delivered by Colonel Wright, the former commissioner of labor, on the Bull lectureship foundation in Philadelphia. The author takes up the cases of labor conflicts with his well-known impartial attitude; he describes a number of typical conflicts between capital and labor, showing that in most cases they might have been avoided, at least in recent years. The feature of the book is a chapter describing the general methods of avoiding labor conflicts and pointing out that the social and industrial efficiency of the American people depends upon the development of a rational system of collective bargaining between employers and employees.

Colonel Wright, in this latest book, takes a historical point of view which lends special interest to his discussion. He shows that the friction, struggle and conflict between opposing forces in our industrial society was natural in the earlier days of our development, but he brings out with great clearness that the principle of combination and co-operation, which has wrought such wonders on the employer's side of business undertakings, must now be applied to the relations between employer and laborer.

REVIEWS.

Alexander, De Alva Stanwood. *A Political History of the State of New York.* Two Volumes. 1774-1832, 1833-1861. Pp. x, 405; vi, 444. Price, \$5.00. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1906.

These volumes deal with a most attractive and important but difficult and complicated field of study. To all but the specialist the political history of the Empire State, especially the period prior to the middle of the nineteenth century, has been—to use the apt description of Daniel S. Dickinson—"a tangled web." Even James Parton refers to it as "that most unfathomable of subjects." With the exception of Hammond's inadequate and antiquated *History of Political Parties in the State of New York*, published sixty years ago, Mr. Alexander's work covers an unoccupied field.

The author's natural interest in politics—as is befitting a member of Congress—as well as his acceptance of Carlyle's conception of the transcendent importance of personality in history, has led him to confine his narrative to political events and to the deeds of party leaders. His plan of treatment is clearly announced in the following extract from the preface: "Indeed, the history of a state or nation is largely the history of a few leading men, and it is of such men only, with some of their more prominent contemporaries, that the author has attempted to write. It would be hard to find, in any commonwealth of the Union a more interesting or picturesque leadership than is presented in the political history of the Empire State. Rarely more than two controlling spirits appear at a time, and as these pass into apogee younger men of approved capacity are ready to take their places. None had a meteoric rise, but in his day each became an absolute party boss."

The first volume opens somewhat abruptly with the establishment of the state government. There is, unfortunately, no attempt to portray the political development of the colony, nor to show the connection between the pre-existing parties and those of the revolutionary era. Neither is the treatment of the transition from colonial to commonwealth government adequate. With the adoption of the constitution of 1777, however, the plan of the author is quite fully and successfully executed.

It is a striking fact that to a remarkable extent the political history of New York can be traced in the constant rivalry of two predominant party leaders. The story of the political careers of George and DeWitt Clinton and the long line of their political opponents comprises more than three-fourths of the first volume. Mr. Alexander shows how, for some time after the Revolution, Hamilton led the forces opposed to George Clinton, and later, while Aaron Burr was pushing to the front; the rising genius of DeWitt Clinton began to assert itself. The defeat of Burr for governor and the death of Hamilton seemed to clear the way for the complete control by DeWitt Clinton, save for his inability to find a strong man for governor whom he could use. In 1812 Van Buren first came into prominence, and shortly revealed his superiority as a political manager. For nearly two decades, until the death of the distinguished canal builder, his great capacity was taxed to the uttermost in the contest between "Bucktails" and "Clintonians." The concluding chapters of this volume trace Thurlow Weed's succession to the leadership of the forces opposed to Van Buren, until the latter's enemies attempted to shelve him by making him vice-president.

The second volume continues the narrative of the rivalry of the opposing parties under these same leaders. Van Buren was aided by two of his former colleagues of the Albany regency, William L. Marcy and Silas Wright. With the reorganization of the Democracy the leadership passed gradually to Horatio Seymour. Weed, supported by Seward, and later by Greeley, marshaled the rival political forces.

In addition to these commanding personalities the pages of these volumes present realistic pen pictures of such statesmen and politicians as Philip Schuyler, John Jay, the Livingstons, Robert Yates, John Lansing, Rufus

King, Daniel D. Tompkins, John A. Dix, Benjamin F. Butler, Daniel S. Dickinson, Millard Fillmore, Hamilton Fish, David D. Field, Harry J. Raymond, Edward D. Morgan, George W. Curtis and Ferdinand Wood. The enumeration of the names of these men, prominent not only in the state, but also in the nation, suggests the intimate connection between the politics of the Empire State and the country. Indeed, one of the decided merits of this history, and a characteristic that distinguishes it from the former type of state histories, is due to the fact that the author realizes this, and reveals the relation between national and state politics. This is particularly true of the period covered by the second volume, which discusses such far-reaching political phenomena as the break up of the Whig party, the reorganization of the Democracy and the rise of the Republican party. So closely, indeed, is the development of national politics followed as we approach the Civil War that the last third of the second volume is devoted to the critical years 1859-1861. The author's keen interest in this period renders him open to criticism for failure to preserve a due regard for the apportionment of space. In contrast with this full discussion of the influence of national politics is the slight attention paid to the politics of New York City, especially the failure to adequately present an account of the rise and development of Tammany as a political force.

The chief shortcomings of this work are due to Mr. Alexander's conception of history and to his narrow interpretation of what comprises political history. In consequence, he fails to present the importance and significance of movements which emanate from the people. Accordingly, little space is given to the anti-rent uprising, the Equal Rights or the Anti-Masonic party's activities. Fortunately the close connection of the Erie canal problems with the political fortunes of some of the leaders necessitated some attention to this important enterprise, but in general little consideration is paid to the influence of industrial and economic forces upon political parties.

The author's style is clear and vigorous. His narrative is interesting and reveals his firm grasp upon the subject matter, especially as it approaches the later period. Although the work adds little to the actual knowledge of the specialist, it is a distinct advance over the old style of state histories, and will serve the general reader as a reliable and interesting guide through the almost bewildering maze of the politics of New York State. We shall await with interest the completion of another volume which, it is announced, will continue the history to 1896.

HERMAN V. AMES.

University of Pennsylvania.

Clark, Victor S. *The Labour Movement in Australasia*. Pp. xi, 327. Price, \$1.50. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1906.

A very valuable addition has been made to the literature on Australasian labor conditions. Our actual knowledge of the trend of affairs in that far off social laboratory is somewhat meager and is colored by the romantic